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Shadow Comics

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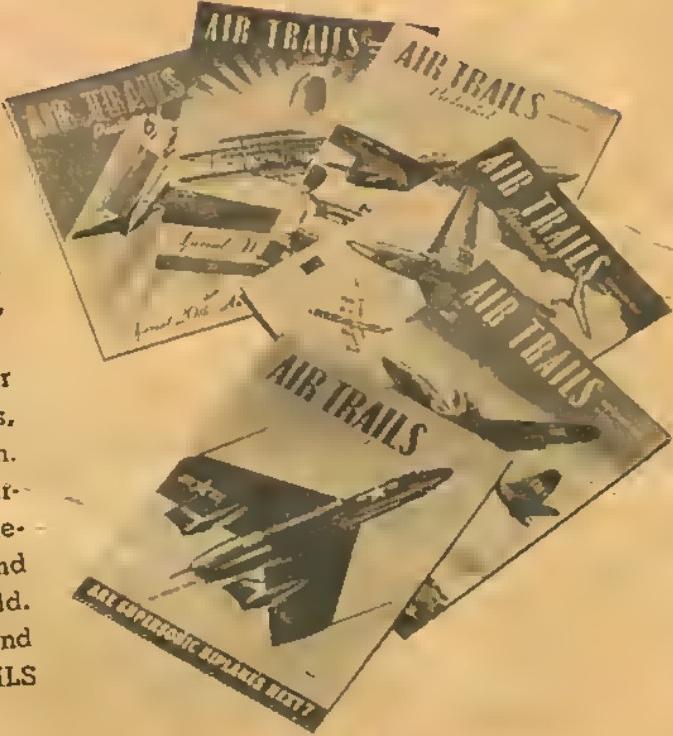
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MURDER THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS!



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OH... MY EARS AND) WHAT A PERFECT COSTUME!.. WHISKERS, THE I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHO'S QUEEN WILL BE HIDDEN BEHIND THE RABBIT MASK!..



THAT'S WHAT'S GOT ME WORRIED!.. LAMONT, YOU DON'T MEAN TO TELL ME THAT WE'RE HERE ON BUSINESS? I THOUGHT THIS WAS TO BE AN EVENING AWAY FROM CRIME!



IT MAY JUST BE A HUNCH BUT I THINK WHEN MR. CARREL INVITED ME, HE WANTED ME IN MY ROLE OF INVESTIGATOR AND NOT AS THE WHITE KNIGHT!..



IT ISN'T FAIR.. YOU DESERVE A REST, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING MUCH TOO HARD!.. I HOPE NOTHING HAPPENS!..



DEATH IN FALSE FACE...



LOOK!.. IT'S... IT'S POOR PALFREY.. MR. CARREL'S SECRETARY!.. HE'S BEEN SHOT... HE'S DEAD!..

TUNE IN

EACH WEEK TO THE
OF THE
SHADOW



IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME 'TILL I NO!.
JUST NOW... THERE'S OF COURSE
NO MIRROR THERE!. THERE ISN'T WHY,
SHOULD YOU THINK THERE WAS..

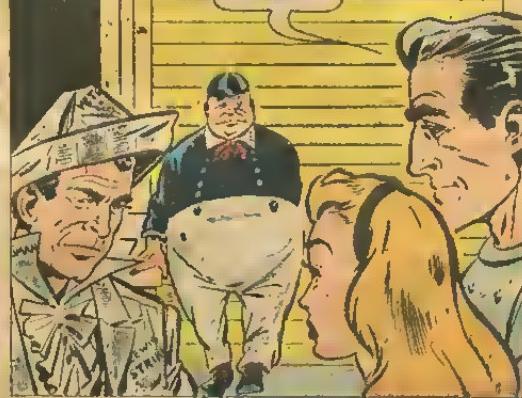
I WAS COMING DOWN THE HALL,
WHEN I SAW DIMLY, AT THE
FAR END OF THE HALL,
WHAT I THOUGHT WAS
MY REFLECTION...



I STOOD IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR
AND ADJUSTED MY COSTUME... THEN
I JOINED THE PARTY... IT WAS
ONLY AFTER THE
SCREAM...



AFTER THE SCREAM... THEN YOU SAW THE KILLER, MAN!
I CAME BACK HERE COULD YOU SEE HIS FACE? DON'T
AND I SAW THAT YOU SEE, YOU WERE THE ONE
THERE WAS NO PERSON THE KILLER DIDN'T WANT
MIRROR THERE... TO KNOW THAT, HE TOO WAS WEARING
A PAPER SUIT... THAT'S WHY HE
Pretended to be your IMAGE!..



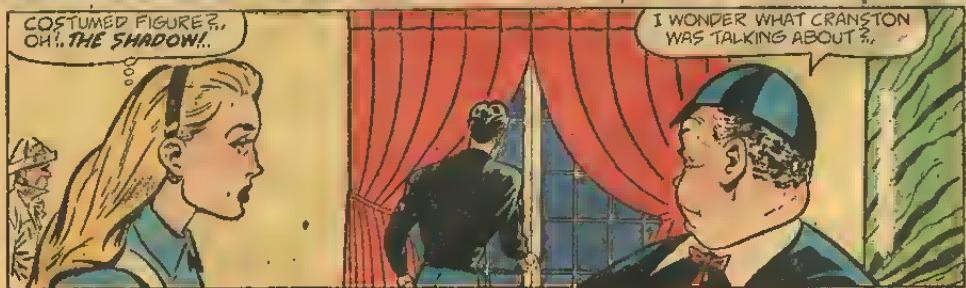
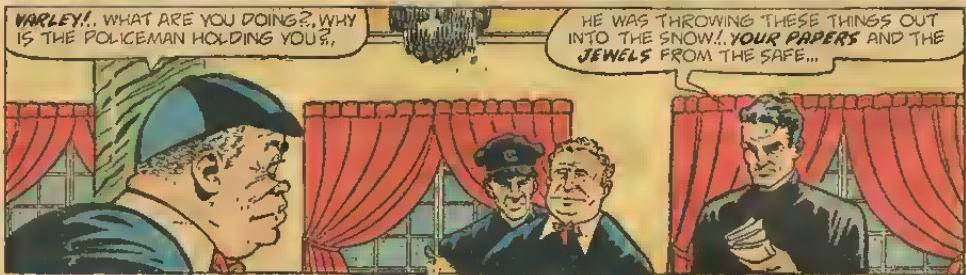
I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY FACE...
IT'S DARK DOWN THERE... MY FACE...
THAT IS... HIS FACE, WAS IN SHADOW...



HURRY THAT CALL, MARGO! I'M HURRYING AS MUCH
GET THE POLICE OUT AS THE OPERATOR WILL
HERE AND FAST! LET ME... HELLO, POLICE F.,
COME TO THE CARREL HOUSE... YES... MURDER!..







ONCE AWAY FROM THE CROWD, WITH NO EYES TO SEE... LAMONT CRANSTON VANISHES... IN HIS STEAD THERE APPEARS THE SHADOW!

THE ONLY FOOT PRINTS ARE THOSE MADE BY THE POLICE ENTERING THE HOUSE... I WONDER...



THREE MORE MINUTES, PICHON! YARE, I'M READY... THIS WAITIN' GITS ON ME NOIVES...



WE BETTER GET INTO THESE STUPID THINGS LIKE THE BOSS SAID...



THE FLATTIES ARE ALL UPSTAIRS... JUST LIKE THE BOSS HAD IT DOPED OUT... NOW'S THE TIME!!

ONE... TWO... THREE...



MORE INSANITY!

FIRE... HELP... RUN...



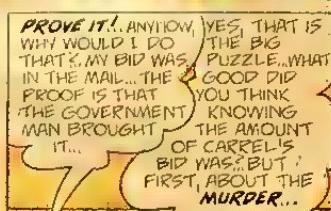
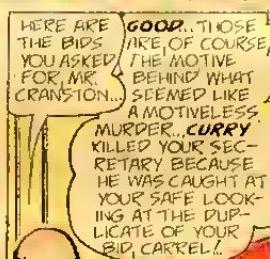
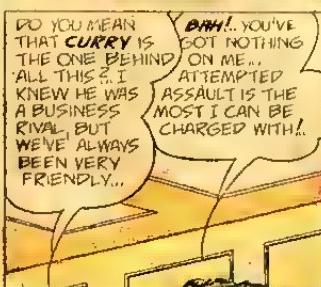
IS THAT A GRENADE?.. NO... IT'S A SMOKE BOMB OF SOME KIND...











MURDER BAH..! UNLESS YOU CAN BUT, CRANSTON..! GIVE A REASON FOR THE CURRY WORE A MURDER YOU'RE JUST TALKING THROUGH ONE THE KILLER DID...AND HE SAID HE SAW THE KILLER IN THE DUPLICATE SUIT...



HE WORE ONE PAPER SUIT ON TOP I SEE..! AND OF ANOTHER PAPER SUIT,, THAT HE TOLD THAT WAS WHAT CLEARED VARLEY, YOUR TALE JUST TO PARTNER,, THE PAPER SUIT WOULD NOT HAVE FITTED ON TOP OF THE TWEEDELL DUM COSTUME...

WAS SOMEONE ELSE IN THE PAPER SUIT,, HE PLANTED THE LOOT ON VARLEY...



AND HE THOUGHT THAT WE'D YES..! THE WHOLE NEVER THING HE'D BRAZEN ENOUGH TO WEAR A SIMILAR DIS- THING WAS CLEVER,, THE TWO HOODLUMS TO DISTRACT US WITH THE GUISE ONE ON TOP SMOKE BOMBS SO SEEM- INGLY THE KILLER COULD GET AWAY..! EVEN THE BIDS... CLEVER..!



NOW, MR. CRANSTON..? YES..! THINK HE'S DONE IT BY NOW...



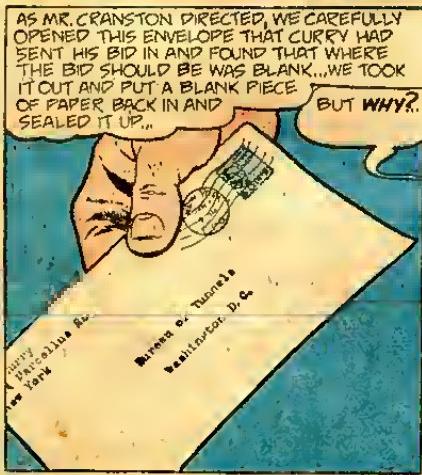
DON'T MOVE, CURRY..! HURRY AND OPEN THE ENVELOPE..!

DONE WHAT?. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?. WHAT ABOUT THE ENVELOPE..?



YOU WERE RIGHT, MR. CRANSTON..! GULP..! BUT THAT'S NOT ONE OF THE BIDS..! THAT PAPER IS EMPTY BUT FOR THAT FIGURE..! WHICH IS LOWER THAN MY BID..!







ALL MY PLANS RUINED!..BUT AT LEAST NOW
I'VE GOT A CHANCE TO RUN FOR IT!..



WHATVA THINK YA DOIN'?,.. WHAT DID YOU CUT ME OFF FOR?.. DON'T FLIP YOUR WIG!.. THIS IS POLICE BUSINESS...



GOING SOMEWHERE, MR. CURRY? SUPPOSE WE JUST GET YOU TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS BEFORE YOU GET ANY MORE BRIGHT IDEAS! SORRY NO

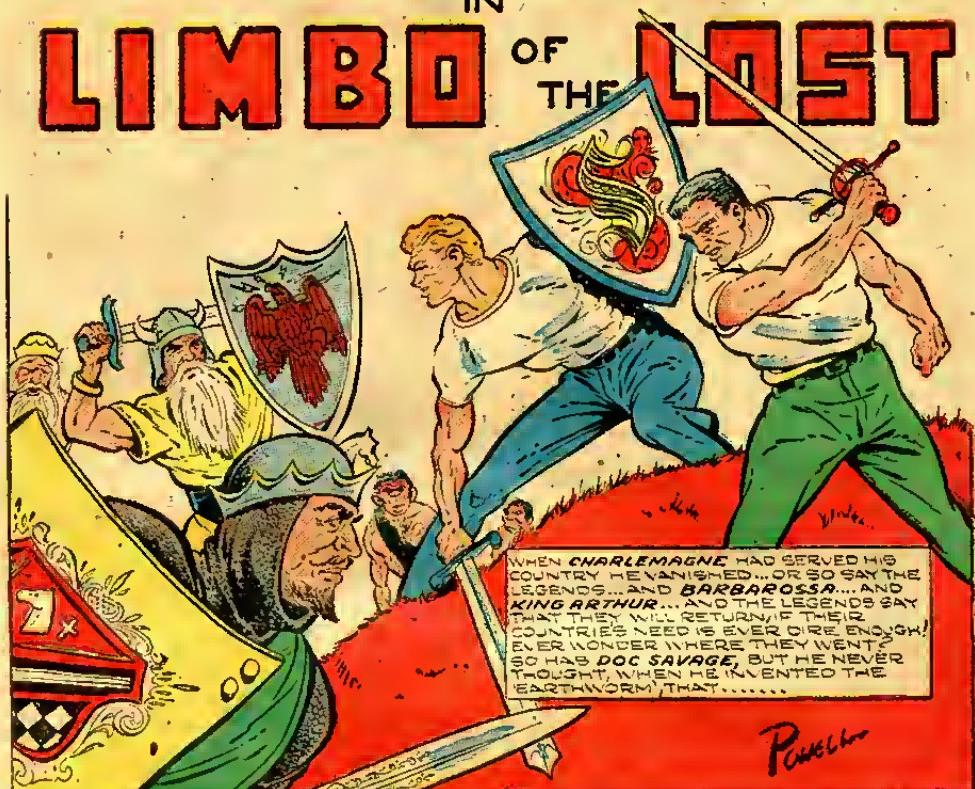


LATER... BACK AT CARREL'S
OFFICE CRANSTON CLEANS UP
THE LOOSE ENDS!



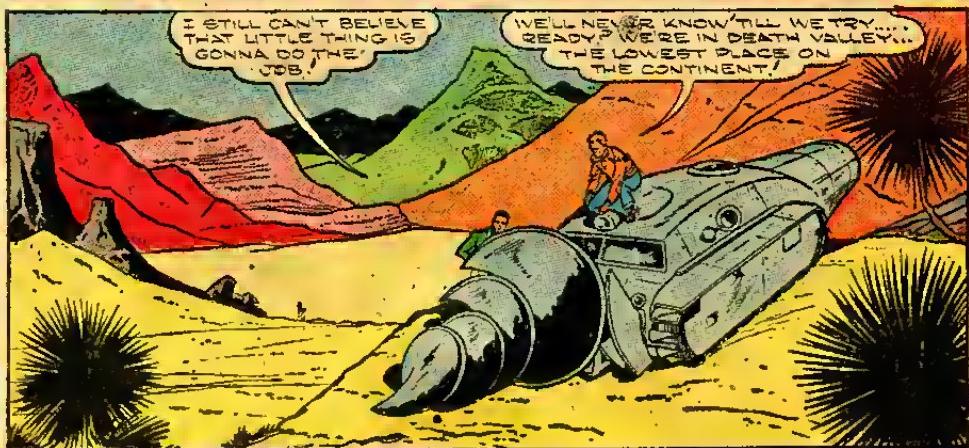
HE FOLDED HIS
BID SO THE SPACE
FOR THE FIGURES
WAS RIGHT UNDER
THE STAMP...IN
FRONT OF US
HE LIFTED THE
STAMP AND
WROTE THE
LOWER FIGURES
IN... } WE'VE ALREADY
SPY IN OUR
OFFICE WHO
WOULD HAVE
DONE IT, IF HIS
ORIGINAL PLAN
HAD GONE
THROUGH...WHICH
IT WOULD HAVE
WITHOUT YOU.
MR. CRANSTON!..ALL
OUR THANKS!"

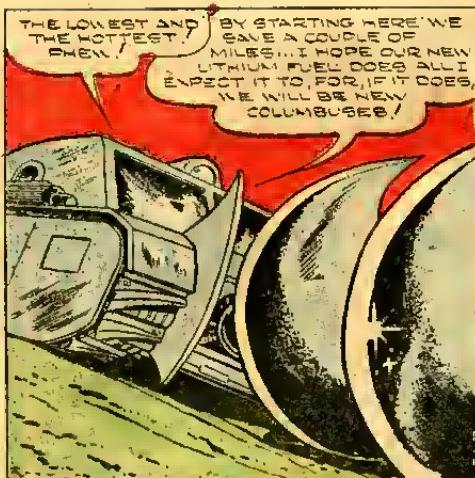
DOC SAVAGE IN LIMBO OF THE LOST



WHEN CHARLEMAGNE HAD SERVED HIS COUNTRY HE VANISHED... OR SO SAY THE LEGENDS... AND BARBAROSSA... AND KING ARTHUR... AND THE LEGENDS SAY THAT THEY WILL RETURN IF THEIR COUNTRIES NEED IS EVER DIRE ENOUGH! EVER WONDER WHERE THEY WENT? SO HAS DOC SAVAGE, BUT HE NEVER THOUGHT, WHEN HE INVENTED THE EARTHWORM, THAT.....

Powell





FIVE MORE MILES... FIFTEEN MILES UNDER THE EARTH... FURTHER THAN ANY MAN HAS EVER GONE... BUT THE HEAT HAS GONE UP AND UP...

GASP... DOC, I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE... IT'S 150 DEGREES AND GOING HIGHER! WE COME DOWN AGAIN WELL HAVE TO HAVE SOME KIND OF SUPER AIR CONDITIONER... I'LL TURN NOW!

BUT WHAT EVEN DOC CAN'T KNOW IS THAT OUTSIDE THE EARTHWORM, THERE'S A STRATA OF VOLCANIC HARD ROCK....



MONK... I CAN'T START THE SLOW TURN THAT WOULD LEAD US BACK UP... WE MUST HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING A SOFT VEN... WE'RE SURROUNDED WITH SOME ROCK OR SUBSTANCE SO HARD THAT THE EARTHWORM CAN'T CUT US THROUGH IT!!

GASP! I CAN'T MAKE IT TURN EITHER!

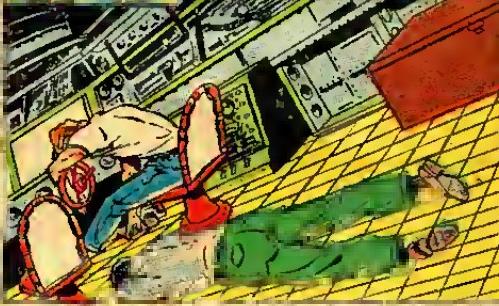


DOC, WHAT'LL WE DO? WE CAN'T BACK UP AND STAY HERE, WE'LL DIE OF HEAT... OR THIRST!!

THIS IS THE ONE THING I COULDN'T PREDICT... THE ONLY THING I CAN GEE IS TO

GO ON AND SEE IF WE CAN CUT THROUGH TO THE END OF THIS STRATA OF HARD ROCK!

DOWN... DOWN... EVER DOWNWARD THE MACHINE EATS ITS WAY... TWENTY MILES... THIRTY MILES... AND THEN....



UNCONSCIOUS FROM THE TREMENDOUS HEAT, DOC AND MONK DON'T EVEN KNOW WHEN THEY REACH 100 MILES UNDER THE SURFACE... BUT HERE, A STRANGE THING OCCURS... IT BEGINS TO GET COOL....

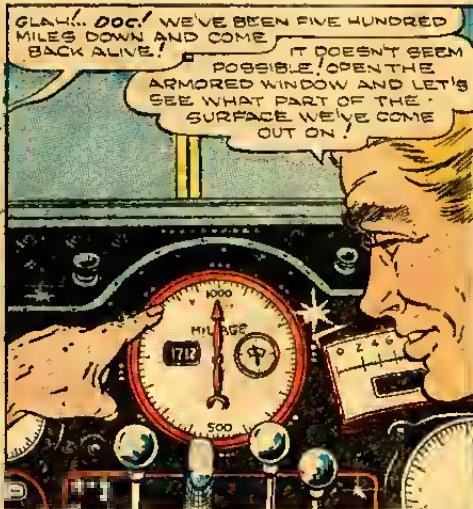


HOURS PASS....MILES....AND SUDDENLY...
THERE IS A TREMENDOUS TURMOIL....

GASP.. DOC.... WE MUST HAVE PASSED
OUT... MONK... THE MACHINE
IT'S COOL.... REVERSED ITSELF... FOUND
A SOFTER VEIN THAT WENT
BACK UP TO THE SURFACE....
LOOK AT THE THERMOMETER...
AND THE INDICATOR!

GLAH!... DOC! WE'VE BEEN FIVE HUNDRED
MILES DOWN AND COME
BACK ALIVE!

IT DOESN'T SEEM
POSSIBLE! OPEN THE
ARMORED WINDOW AND LET'S
SEE WHAT PART OF THE
SURFACE WE'VE COME
OUT ON!



EYES BULGING THEY SEE....

DOC!... DOC, WHERE ARE WE?
WHAT COUNTRY HAS RED GRASS
AND TREES LIKE
THAT?

NONE!....GRASS IS GREEN BECAUSE OF
CHLOROPHYLL... THAT GRASS DOESN'T LIVE
THE WAY OUR'S DOES....MONK, WE HAVE
NOT COME TO THE SURFACE!



THEY SAMPLE THE AIR AND FIND IT WILL
SUPPORT THEIR LIFE... THEN HESITANTLY
MONK OPENS THE DOOR....

LOOK AT
THAT FUNNY
LITTLE
'SUN'!

MONK!...THIS MEANS THAT
SCIENCE IS WRONG...THAT
THERE IS NO BURNING
CENTER OF THE EARTH.....
ALTHOUGH THERE MAY HAVE
BEEN ONCE...THAT SUN IS THE
REMNANT OF THE BOILING
MASS....

THIS MEANS THAT THE EARTH IS
INCALCULABLY OLDER THAN SCIENCE
HAS THOUGHT, FOR IT
TO HAVE COOLED
THIS MUCH...

DOC... I
HEAR SOMETHING...
LISTEN!...



FANTASY OF FANTASIES... DOC AND MONK
RUB THEIR EYES IN DISBELIEF.....

DOST FORFEIT THY
DESIRE, ARTHUR?

BY THE LENGTH OF THY RED
BEARD, FREDERICK, KNOWLEDGE
HAS NOT GROWN WITH YOUR
YEARS... NO! I DO NOT
FORFEIT!

FREDERICK, THE BEARDED BARBÁROSA
AND ARTHUR... KING ARTHUR
OF CHAMELOT! CHAMPIONS OF YEAH! AND
CENTURIES GONE BY... WHAT ABOUT
HOW CAN THIS THOSE CAVE-
MEN? THEY LOOK
EVEN MORE FEROCIOUS
THAN THE OTHERS.

'TIS TIME AND PAST
TIME THAT THE COM-
BATANTS PAUSED FOR
FOOD. THY SERVITORS
WILL BRING THEE
THY SUSTENANCE! IT
THIS GETS MORE
BORING THAN MAN
CAN STAND, IF I WERE NOT
CHARLEMAGNE, I'D LEAVE THIS
PLACE OF STRANGE
ENCHANTMENT.



WELCOME TO
MERLINLAND.....



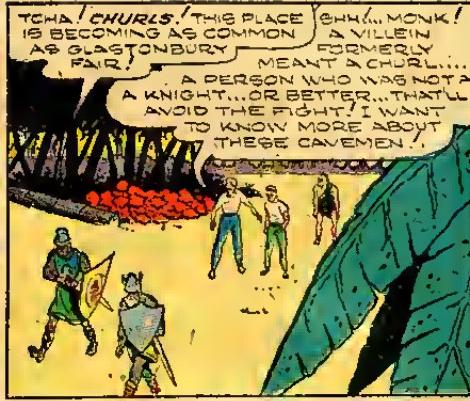
MERLINLAND? YOU MEAN MERLIN AMBROSIOUS
WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE
BEEN THE WIZARD AT
KING ARTHUR'S COURT,
A THOUSAND YEARS
AGO!

A THOUSAND
YEARS THEN
YOU KNOW.... SHH...
THOSE OTHERS,
THE KINGS MUST
NOT BE DISABUSED!

HOW NOW? MORE HEROIC KINGS BROUGHT
BY ENCHANTMENT TO THIS
STRANGE LAND? HOW
ARE YOU NOW,
KNIGHTS OR.....

TCH! THEY'VE
SEEN YOU... NOW
YOU'LL HAVE TO
DUEL THEM IN
MORTAL COMBAT!
IT'S A PITY!





KNOW YOU, THAT ONCE AGONS AGO, WE WERE
MEN OF THE SURFACE.... BUT
DURING WHAT YOU CALL THE
ICE AGE, SOME OF US
WERE TRAPPED!

THE ICE
AGE! GOOD
GRIEF!

ALL SURFACE MEN WERE THEN IN THE
STAGE THAT YOU CALL THE NEANDERTHAL...
WE, AS WELL AS YOU,... SOME OF US FELL
IN A CREEVASS... IT LEAD
DOWNWARDS... IT WAS
WARM... VERY
WARM...



SOME FREAK OF THAT GEOLOGIC AGE HAD OPENED
A TUNNEL THAT LEAD DOWN HERE TO THIS...
THE CENTER OF THE EARTH..... HERE....
WARMED BY A REMANT OF THE
FIERY CORE OF THE EARTH,
WE LIVED!



AFTER THOUSANDS OF YEARS, WE
REACHED THE PEAK OF MECHANICAL
CIVILIZATION... AND THEN... ONE OF
OUR SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED
ATOMIC
POWER!

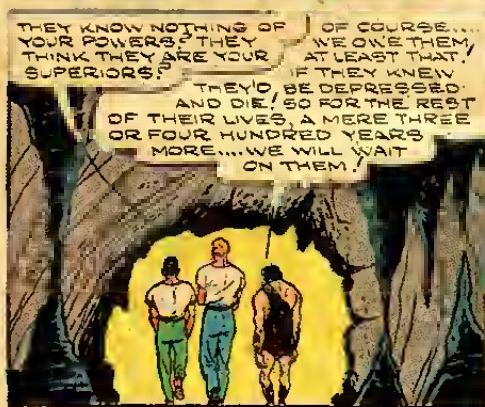
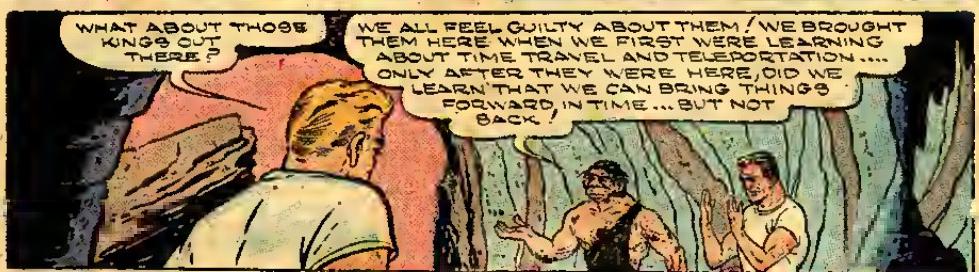
GULP! JUST
LIKE WE HAVE!

I WON'T SHOW YOU PICTURES OF WHAT
FOLLOWED. SOON THERE WERE
BUT A HANDFULL OF US
LEFT... IT WAS THEN....

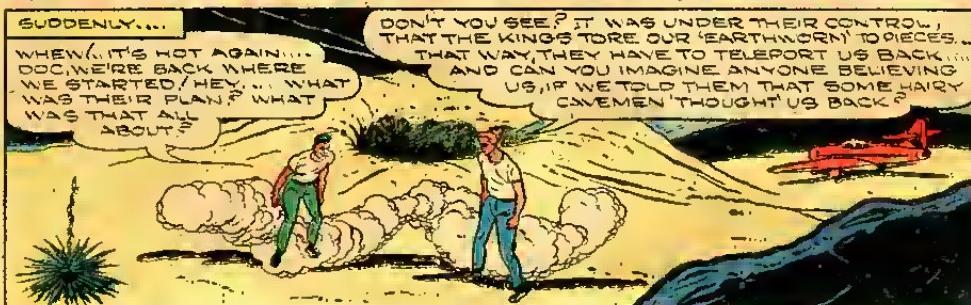


FROM THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF MECHANICAL
CIVILIZATION, WE WERE ONCE AGAIN, TRULY
CAVEMEN... WE WERE BACK TO BOWS AND ARROWS.
WE STARTED AGAIN.... BUT, THIS TIME WE
AVOIDED THE MACHINE... INSTEAD, WE
CONCENTRATED ON OUR MINDS!









Nick Carter

Master Detective
IN THE

CASE OF THE QUEER MONEY



...BUT WHY HAVEN'T YOU REPORTED YOUR HUSBAND'S DISAPPEARANCE TO THE POLICE? I BE... MRS. ZOLTER? BECAUSE... WE ARE IN THE U.S. ILLEGALLY....



AND... YOU'VE COME TO ME THINKING I'D HELP YOU BECAUSE I'M A PRIVATE DETECTIVE AND NOT REPORT YOU TO THE IMMIGRATION OFFICERS?... OF ALL THE NERVE!!

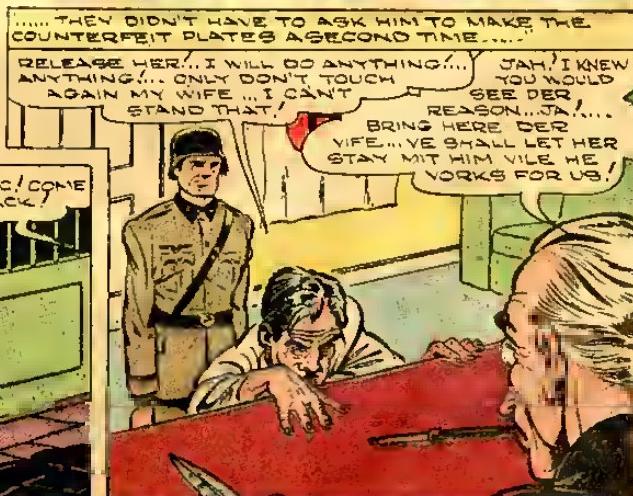
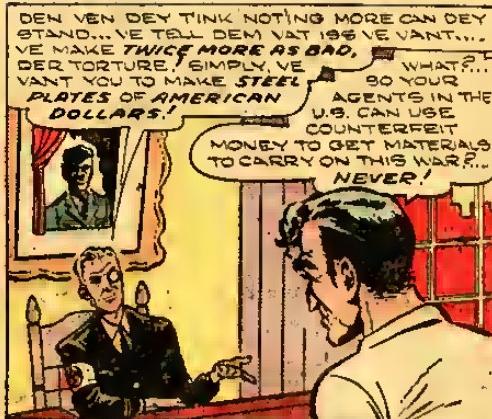
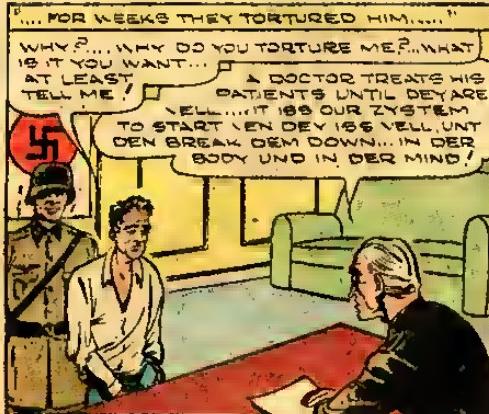
NO... OH, NO!
PLEASE! I'M ALONE HERE!
IT'S HELP AND ADVICE I NEED
BY SOMEONE WHO CAN HEAR MY STORY
AND NOT ENDANGER THE LIFE OF MY HUSBAND!



VERY WELL I'LL HEAR YOUR STORY... BUT THE OFFICIALS MUST BE NOTIFIED OF YOUR PRESENCE HERE ILLEGALLY... GO ON IT AHEAD....

BEGIN IN 1938... BEFORE THE WAR... MY HUSBAND IS THEN A HUNGARIAN ARTIST, FAMOUS FOR HIS STEEL ENGRAVINGS... WHEN CAME THE WAR, HE WAS KIDNAPPED TO GERMANY....





AND SO HE WORKED FOR THE NAZIS.... HE MADE PLATES FOR EVERY DENOMINATION OF U.S. BILLS.... THE NAZIS SAID THEY WERE PERFECT.... THEY LET US LIVE IN PEACE AND AFTER WHAT WE HAD BEEN THROUGH.... WE WERE GRATEFUL!



AND WHEN THE NAZIS WERE BEATEN, HOW DID WE ESCAPE? PLenty OF MONEY... OUR OWN COUNTERFEIT MONEY... WE BOUGHT OUR FREEDOM... AND THAT OF THE NAZIS IN CHARGE OF THE COUNTERFEIT MONEY DEPARTMENT...



AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE COUNTER-DE-
FET PLATES? DESTROYED THEM! THAT IS WHY LEDVIC HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED AGAIN....



DON'T YOU SEE?... THEY WILL FORCE HIM TO MAKE MORE PLATES AND WHEN THEY ARE DONE THEY WILL... THEY'LL KILL HIM... I KNOW IT.... YOU MUST HELP ME.... PLEASE... PLEASE...



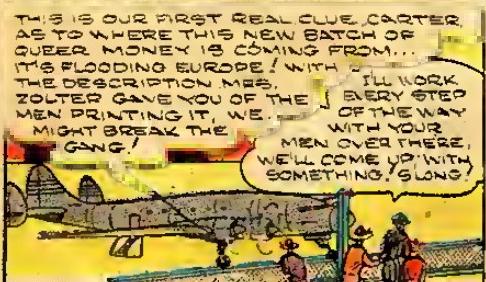
I'LL HELP YOU... BUT I'LL HAVE TO TURN YOU OVER TO THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS IN THE MEAN-TIME....

PATSY? GET ME THE DEPT. OF IMMIGRATION, WASHINGTON, WILBUR DERTON! AFTER THAT, CALL THE TREASURY DEPT...

RIGHT AWAY, NICK...



THE FOLLOWING DAY, WITH MRS ZOLTER IN THE HANDS OF THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS, NICK RECEIVES FINAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM ART TRASK, TREASURY AGENT, AS NICK PREPARES TO LEAVE FOR FRANCE...



A FEW MINUTES LATER....

SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE AN EASY ASSIGNMENT FOR NICK!

YES... I'M AFRAID HE'S IN FOR MORE DANGER THAN EVEN NICK CARTER EVER BARGAINED FOR!



SUNDAY EVENING
6:30 P.M. EST.

sponsored by

OLD DUTCH
CLEANSER



THE FOLLOWING DAY IN A SMALL OFFICE
IN THE U.S. EMBASSY IN PARIS....

THE PHONEY MONEY DOESN'T SHOW
UP SO EASY ON THIS SIDE OF THE OCEAN
CARTER.... IT'S A MUCH TOUGHER
JOB SPOTTING IT AND UNDERSTAND
CHARTING IT THAN AT HOME.... SINCE AMERICAN
MONEY IS NOT LEGAL

HERE, IT IS SOLD ON
THE BLACK MARKET AND
ONLY PASSES THROUGH
BLACK MARKEETERS'
HANDS....



EXACTLY, BUT WE DO PICK IT UP WHEN IT'S
TURNED IN BY INNOCENT VICTIMS AT
AMERICAN EXPRESS OFFICES OR WHEN
THE SURRETE-GENERALE NABS A
BLACK MARKET AGENT ON A
RAID. WE'VE CHARTED
HERE, EACH PLACE
IT'S SHOWN....

ANY "HIGH
FREQUENCY"
AREAS?



NOPES.... EVERY TIME A NEW DENOMINATION APPEARS, IT'S SPREAD OUT PRETTY EVENLY. SO FAR \$1, \$5, AND \$100 BILLS HAVE SHOWN UP OFF OF THESE

NEW ZOLTER PLATES....

DO YOU LIKE TO SEE SOME OF THE BILLS IF YOU'VE GOT THEM?



THERE YOU ARE!... PERFECT JOBS... THAT IS, EXCEPT FOR THE SCREWY SERIAL NUMBER ON THE \$1.....

THAT'S INTERESTING.... FOUND ANY REASON FOR IT?



WHY, NO.... IT LOOKS LIKE NOT BY A LONG SHOT. THEY JUST PULLED A LONG SHOT. MR. WADE! THE NUMBER IS M12819

123... TRANSFER THOSE NUMBERS INTO LETTERS AND YOU GET A CLOSE SPELLING OF....



MARSAILLES! JUMPIN' JEHOSSOPHAT! YOU'RE RIGHT... ZOLTER DID THE ONLY THING HE COULD TO PUT US ON THE TRAIL!



15 HOURS LATER, NICK CARTER IS IN MARSEILLES IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE WITH ONLY A VAGUE PLAN OF ACTION AS TO HOW HE WILL MAKE CONTACT WITH THE COUNTERFEITERS....

HMM... THIS BAR LOOKS AS GOOD AS ANY FOR A START....

J'AI PERDU AUX CARTES MES DOLLARS.... ALORS, JE NE PU PAS QUITTER LA FRANCE SI JE N'AIS PAS TOUTE QUE JE AVAIS! (I LOST MY DOLLARS PLAYING CARDS... SO I CAN'T LEAVE FRANCE. THAT'S WHY I HAD!) JE SAIS. C'EST TRES MAL MAIS

JE NE PUS PAS VOUS AIDE!

PSST! EXCUSEZ-MOI, MONSIEUR... ES, CE QUE VOUS AVEZ LES DOLLARS A VENDRE? (EXCUSE ME, MISTER... DO YOU HAVE DOLLARS TO SELL?)

DOLLARS? NON, MONSIEUR... PAS MOI! (WHAT DOLLARS? NO, MISTER... NOT ME!)

FOR SEVERAL HOURS NICK CONTINUES THE SAME PROCEDURE IN ONE BAR AFTER ANOTHER AND ALWAYS RECEIVING THE SAME ANSWER.....

PSST! QUAPAH, NON, MONSIEUR... AH, NON!

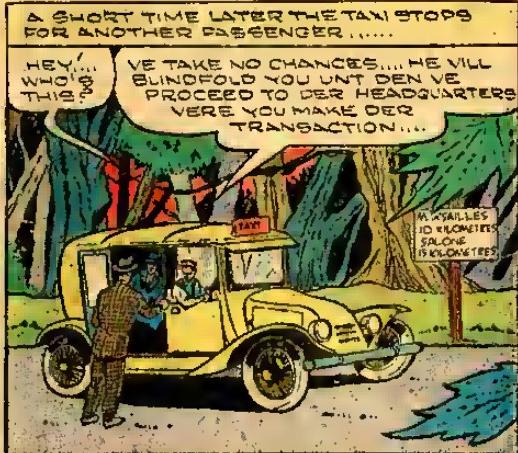
FINALLY, TIRED BUT NOT AS DISCOURAGED AS HE LOOKS, NICK GETS INTO A WAITING CAB....

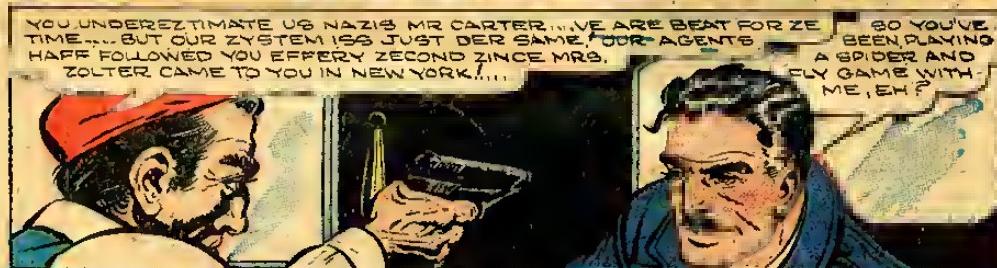
LE HOTEL DE OUI, MONSIEUR... PARIS... TOUTE DE SUITE?

AFTER FIVE MINUTES, NICK REALIZES THAT THE DRIVER IS NOT TAKING HIM IN THE DIRECTION OF THE HOTEL....

ARRETEZ!... (STOP!)

RELAX!... UNT YOU CAN SPEAK ENGLISH.... YOU VISH AMERICAN DOLLARS, JAH?... VELL, I TAKE YOU WHERE YOU CAN BUY DEM!









THEN I CAN TELL YOU WHAT MY PLAN IS, CARTER! FOR YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO TELL IT! NO MUCH AND A MAN DE-IT IS NEEDED, SERVES AN ZOLTER, YOU EXPLANATION GET OUT TO BEFORE I BRING ME HE DIES... HERE AND SUCCEDED FOR A SIMPLE PURPOSE... NOW THAT I'VE BEEN YOU AND REMEMBERING YOU ARE AN ARTIST BY PROFESSION, I THINK I UNDERSTAND...

AH... SO... IT IS NOT CLEVER EH... I CHOOSE A MAN WELL KNOW AND RESPECTED BY THE U.S. POLICE, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT... BY THE WORLD! A MAN MY SIZE... A BIT HEAVIER, BUT I'LL PUT ON THE WEIGHT... THEN WITH MAKE UP, I MAKE MYSELF THAT MAN...

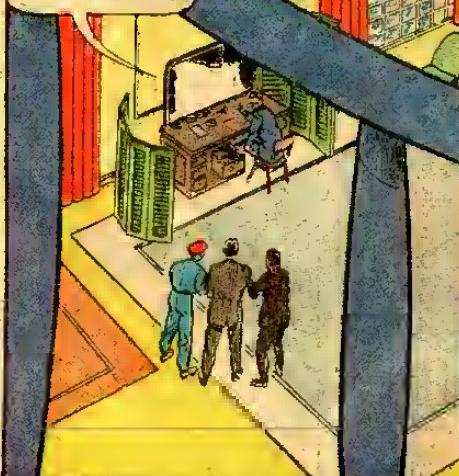
THEN... I WILL BUILD THE INFLUENCE WHICH YOU COMMAND INTO POWER! WHO WILL SUSPECT THAT THE MAN THEY THINK IS NICK CARTER IS IT IS LEDVIC ZOLTER? MY FRIENDS WOULDN'T BE POOLED... YOU CAN'T LOOK LIKE ME.



'HA!... BRING HIM OVER HERE... I'LL SHOW YOU MR. CARTER... NOT ONE HAIR WILL BE DIFFERENT!

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST... THE MOUSTACHE HE HE!... AND WHEN IT'S ON CARTER... YOUR TIME IS UP!... THERE CAN'T BE TWO NICK CARTERS.'

AREN'T YOU GOING TO LET IT BE SAID THAT THE CONDEMNED MAN ATE A HEARTY MEAL?



PERFECTLY CONFIDENT AND IN A GOOD HUMOR, ZOLTER FILLS NICK'S REQUEST FOR A LARGE MEAL... IT'S PREPARATION AND EATING CONSUMES MORE VALUABLE TIME... BUT FINALLY....

THAT WAS FINE... FINE... BUT I'D LIKE A LITTLE MORE DRAGGING OUT COFFEE IF... THE SHORT TIME I MAY.... HE HE... VERY WELL, GIVE HIM ANOTHER COFFEE AND THEN EXIT THE FIRST MR. CARTER!

DA....

NOT ABLE TO WAIT LONGER, NICK ACTS!....

YAAAAAAA....

STOP HIM!

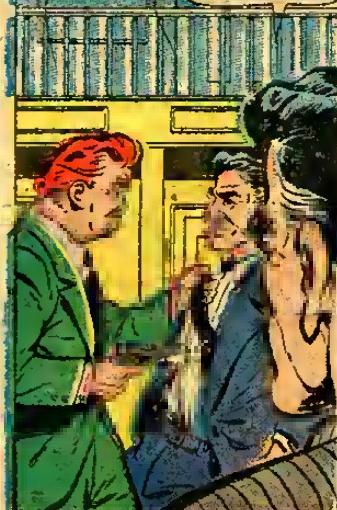


THERE'S NO FOOLING ME, ZOLTER... YOU GAVE YOURSELF AWAY! YOU'RE WRONG! COULD YOU TELL, WADE? HIS MAKEUP IS PERFECT!

THE WINE GLASSES, NICK... EVERYONE KNOWS THAT NICK CARTER DOESN'T DRINK! YOU SEE... EVEN A TREASURY MAN CAN BE A DETECTIVE!

LATER, AFTER THE GANG HAS BEEN ROUNDED UP AND SENT BACK TO MARSHALL, A THOROUGH SEARCH TURNS UP ALL OF THE COUNTERFEIT PLATES...

THERE THEY ALL ARE, NICK! THANKS TO YOUR DARING, WE'VE BROKEN UP THE BIGGEST COUNTERFEITING RING IN THE WORLD! AND MUCH MORE WADE! COUNTERFEITING WAS ONLY ONE MEANS OF GETTING A STRANGE HOLD ON THE WORLD... THEY HAD MUCH BIGGER PLANS... AND THERE ARE MORE LIKE 'EM THAT WE'VE GOT TO FIND AND DESTROY TOO!



CRIME QUIZ

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT CRIME... DO YOU KNOW WHAT A MOLL BUZZER IS? I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT... IT'S A PERSON NOT AN ELECTRICAL DEVICE!!



MOLL, OF COURSE MEANS WOMAN, BUZZER MEANS A PICKPOCKET WHO BUZZES, LIFTS, PURSES BY OPENING WOMEN'S POCKETBOOKS, LIKE THIS!..



HERE'S AN EASY ONE...WHAT KIND OF CROOK IS CALLED A SLEEPER? NO, IT'S NOT SOMEONE WHO PRETENDS TO BE SLEEPY....



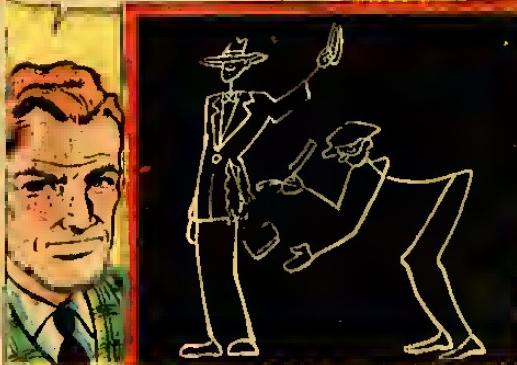
DID YOU GET THAT ONE? A SLEEPER IS A PURSE SNATCHER WHO STEALS FROM WOMEN WHO ARE INATTENTIVE BECAUSE OF SHOPPING FOR HATS AND LEAVE THEIR PURSE ATTACHED!



HERE'S A PHRASE THAT MOST PEOPLE USE INCORRECTLY... THEY THINK A LUSH ROLLER STEALS FROM DRUNKS; THIS ISN'T ALWAYS SO... DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE TECHNIQUE OF LUSH ROLLER IS?..



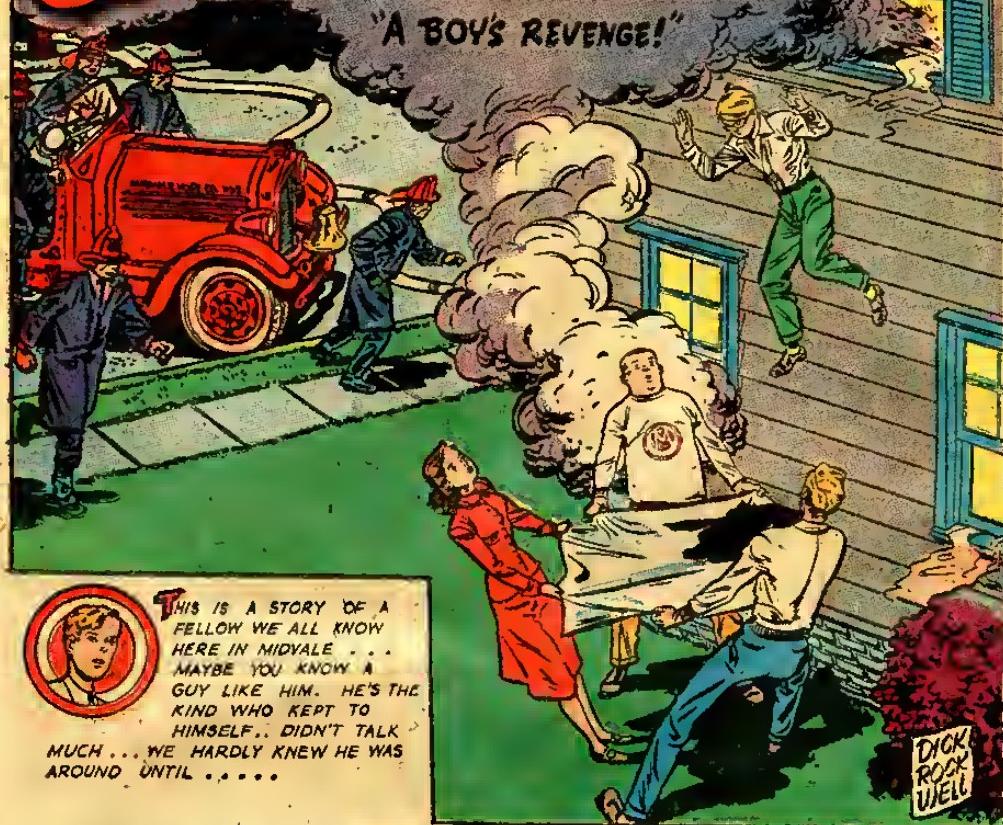
HERE'S THE WAY THESE VIOLENT THIEVES OPERATE... IN A CROWDED CONVEYANCE THEY SLIT A MAN'S POCKET OPEN WITH A RAZOR AND CATCH HIS WALLET AS IT FALLS OUT... THEY'RE NOT EVEN SKILLFUL ENOUGH TO BE PICKPOCKETS!..



CHICK CARTER

OF THE INNER CIRCLE

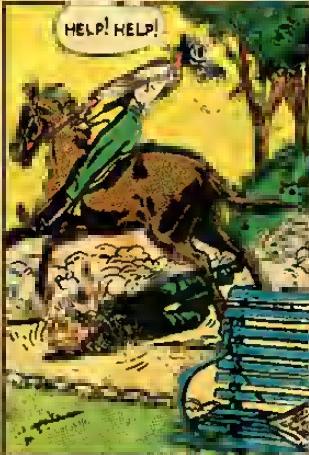
"A BOY'S REVENGE!"



THIS IS A STORY OF A FELLOW WE ALL KNOW HERE IN MIDVALE . . . MAYBE YOU KNOW A GUY LIKE HIM. HE'S THE KIND WHO KEPT TO HIMSELF . . . DIDN'T TALK MUCH . . . WE HARDLY KNEW HE WAS AROUND UNTIL . . .

DICK
ROCK
WELL

...ONE DAY CROSSING THROUGH THE PARK ON THE WAY HOME SOMETHING HAPPENED . . .



I WAS JUST WINDING UP WHEN I HEARD THE RIDER'S CRY!



THERE WASN'T MUCH TIME TO GET OVER TO THE BRidle PATH...

LUCK WAS WITH ME HOLDING ON, BUT THE FRIGHTENED HORSE KEPT GOING...

FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT I WAS GOING UNDER THE ANIMAL'S HOOFs...



BUT LUCK STUCK BY ME AND I SOON HAD HIM IN HAND. THEN I REALIZED THE GIRL WAS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING.....

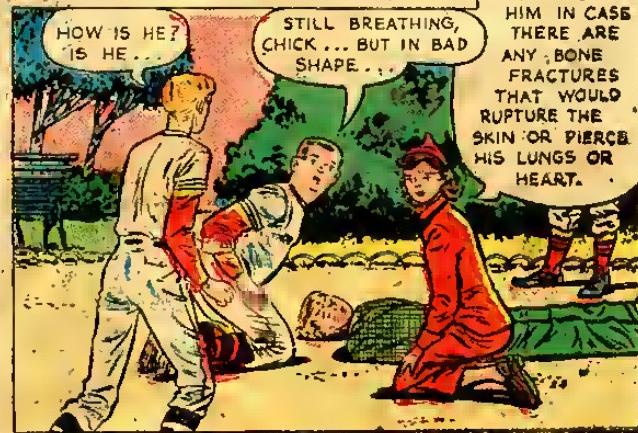


THAT BOY... IT'S HORRIBLE... WE RAN HIM DOWN! HE'S... DEAD!

THEN I SAW THE KID. I TOOK HER ALONE AND STARTED BACK!



BY THE TIME I GOT BACK, SUE, BIFF AND SOME OF THE REST OF THE INNER CIRCLE TEAM WERE ALREADY THERE



WE GOT TO A PHONE AND HAD AN AMBULANCE THERE IN TEN MINUTES. MEANTIME, WE PUT OUR INNER CIRCLE RED CROSS FIRST AID TRAINING TO WORK, COVERING HIM WELL, BUT NOT MOVING HIM...

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU KIDS DIDN'T TRY TO MOVE HIM - NOT TELLING WHAT HARM YOU MIGHT HAVE DONE THE WAY HIS BONES ARE BROKEN

WE'VE ALL STUDIED FIRST AID DOCTOR...WE KNOW THE FIRST RULE IS NOT TO MOVE THE INJURED PERSON AND SECONDLY TO KEEP 'EM WARM AND TREAT 'EM FOR SHOCK!



I'VE SEEN THAT KID AROUND, CHICK... BUT I... WELL I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIS NAME...

ME TOO - NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, HE'S ALWAYS ALONE.. NEVER MIXES WITH ANYBODY, STRANGE GUY...

HIS NAME'S TIM BORLICK.. I ASKED HIM TO JOIN INNER CIRCLE ONCE.. BUT HE WASN'T INTERESTED.. HMMMM.. WONDER WHY?



THAT'S HOW I GOT INTERESTED IN TIM. I VISITED HIM IN THE HOSPITAL THE NEXT DAY AND GOT TO KNOW HIS MOTHER AND FATHER. I HAPPENED TO HEAR THEM TALKING OUTSIDE HIS DOOR...



HARRY YOU MUST STAY UNTIL VISITING HOURS ARE OVER.. I KNOW THE CIVIC BOOSTERS MEETING IS IMPORTANT, BUT SO IS TIM..

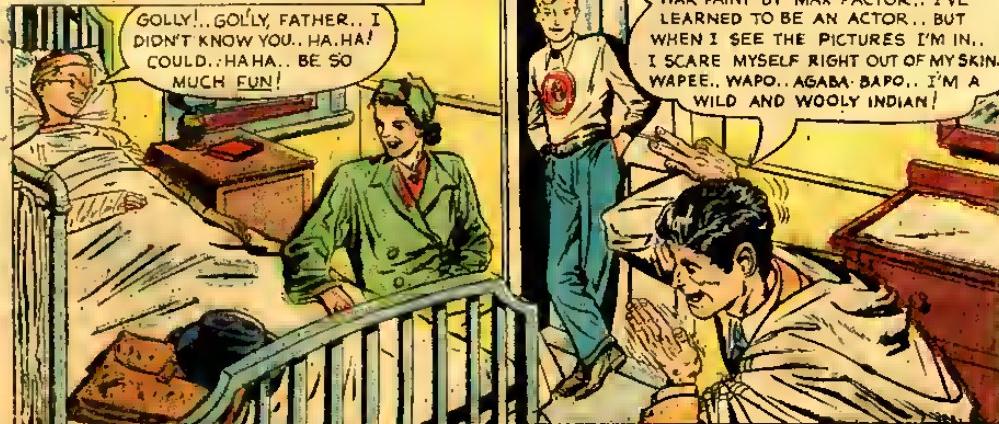
WHAT CAN I DO FOR HIM? HE'S GETTING THE BEST MEDICAL ATTENTION. TONIGHT'S MEETING IS IMPORTANT AND I'M ONLY WASTING...



MOTHER.. FATHER.. YOU.. YOU'RE NOT GOING ARE YOU?

OF COURSE NOT, TIMMY... WE'RE STAYING WITH YOU UNTIL VISITING HOURS ARE OVER.

I STAYED WITH THEM AND WATCHED HIS FATHER FORGET HIS MEETING AND PUT ON A SHOW FOR HIS SON...



GOLLY.. GOLLY, FATHER.. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU. HA.HA! COULD.. HAHA.. BE SO MUCH FUN!

WAPEE.. WAPO.. AGABAG-BAPP... I'M A WILD AND WOOLY INDIAN... WITH WAR PAINT BY MAX FACTOR.. I'VE LEARNED TO BE AN ACTOR.. BUT WHEN I SEE THE PICTURES I'M IN.. I SCARE MYSELF RIGHT OUT OF MY SKIN. WAPEE.. WAPO.. AGABA-BAPO.. I'M A WILD AND WOOLY INDIAN!

WHILE TIM WAS SICK, HIS FATHER AND MOTHER SPENT A LOT OF TIME WITH HIM AND HE CHANGED.. BECAME A DIFFERENT KID. THEN, WHEN HE WAS ALMOST WELL....

B-BOTH OF YOU GOING OUT AGAIN TONIGHT?

YOU'RE A BIG FELLA NOW, TIM... YOU'RE WELL - DON'T YOU WANT ME TO HELP MAKE THIS A BETTER COMMUNITY TO LIVE IN?

AND, TIM... YOU KNOW I DO NEARLY ALL THE WORK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD MYSELF TO HELP THE UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN AT 'HELPING HAND CLUB.'

NOT REALIZING WHAT THEY WERE DOING TO TIM, THEY LEFT HIM ALONE ALMOST EVERY NIGHT....

GOLLY.. GOLLY.. GOLLY... SOB... SOB

FINALLY HE CAME BACK TO SCHOOL AND I MET HIM ON THE STEPS AFTER CLASS....

HI, TIM... GLAD YOU'RE BACK... SAY - HOW ABOUT COMING OVER TO THE INNER CIRCLE CLUB ROOM AND GETTING ACQUAINTED, MAYBE JOINING UP?

OH' N-NO TH-THANKS GOTTA GO HOME

WHAT?... OH, HI, SUE.. IT'S TIM.. CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM AGAIN SINCE HE GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, KEEPS TO HIMSELF.. STRANGE!

HI, CHICK!.. WHAT'S BOthering YOU?

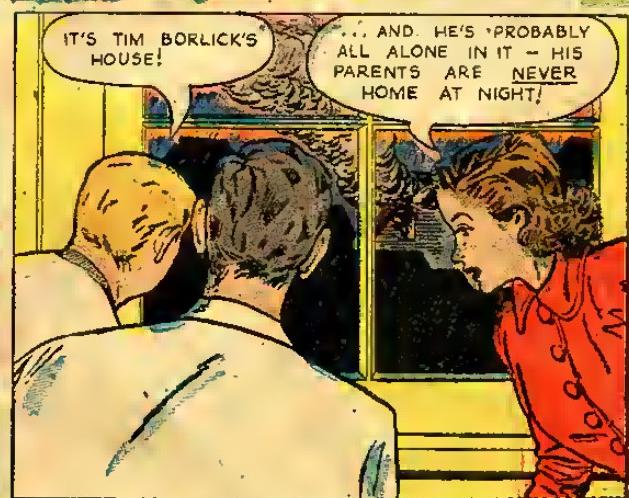
A FEW NIGHTS LATER, BIFF, SUE AND I WERE AT INNER CIRCLE HEADQUARTERS PLANNING THE WEEKS ACTIVITIES WHEN...

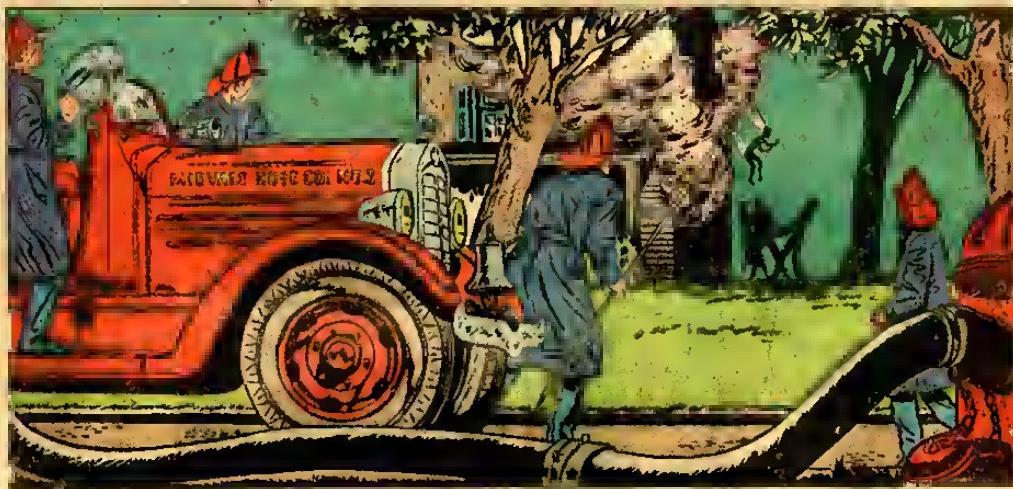
HEY... LOOKOUT THERE!

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S TIM BORLICK'S HOUSE!

... AND.. HE'S PROBABLY ALL ALONE IN IT - HIS PARENTS ARE NEVER HOME AT NIGHT!







FOR NO SOONER WAS HE HOME THAN THEY WERE OUT NIGHT AFTER NIGHT ATTENDING CIVIC CLUB AND UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN MEETINGS...

YOU SEE WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO TIM?... LONESOME, FOR HIS FOLKS HE WAS GLAD HE BROKE HIS LEG BECAUSE TO HIM IT REPRESENTED A CHANCE TO BE WITH THEM! HIS FUN WAS SHORT-LIVED.....



SURE - TIM FELT SORRY FOR HIMSELF AND NEGLECTED, HE DIDN'T BEGRUDGE UNDERPRIVILEGED KIDS HIS FOLKS' AFFECTION - BUT HE WANTED SOME FOR HIMSELF....



WHEN HIS LEG WAS HEALED, TIM STARTED HANGING AROUND THE POOR SECTIONS OF MIDVALE...



THEY BEGAN TO TAKE NOTICE OF HIM... ONE DAY THE LEADER OF A GANG GOT CURIOUS...



TIM WAS SHOWN AROUND...
INTRODUCED TO THE CLUB HOUSE.



WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING, BUT STICKING TO HIS PROMISE TO OBEY AND FIGHT, TIM CHARGED IN WITH THE REST...
THE FIGHT WAS ON!



TIM WAS HANDY WITH HIS MITS
FOR A KID HIS AGE....



BUT THE NEXT INSTANT...



...TIM WAS ON THE RECEIVING END!
A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE POLICE CAR ARRIVED
TO BREAK IT UP...



COME ON, COME ON!
SNAP OUT OF IT WILL
YUH? WE'LL GET
NABBED!

HUH?
WHAT?
WHAT HAP.
...OHHHHH!

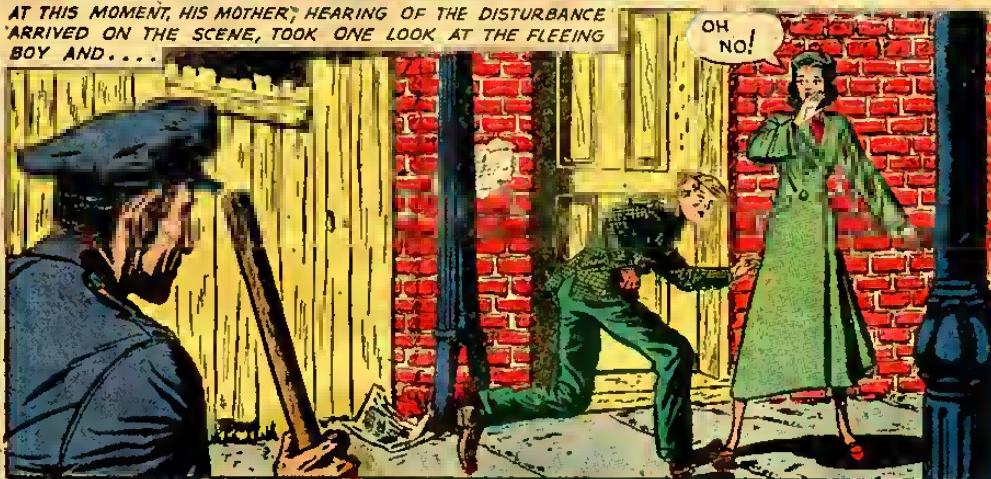


OKAY YUH YOUNG HOODLUM
Y'RE COMIN' WITH ME...



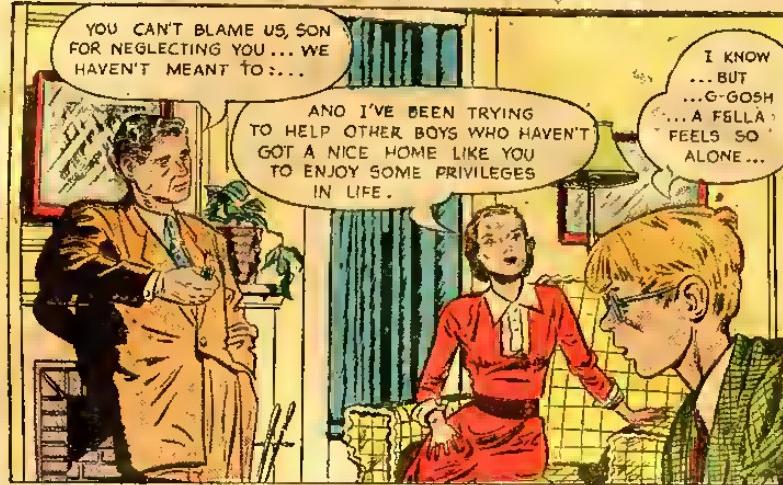


AT THIS MOMENT, HIS MOTHER, HEARING OF THE DISTURBANCE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, TOOK ONE LOOK AT THE FLEEING BOY AND....

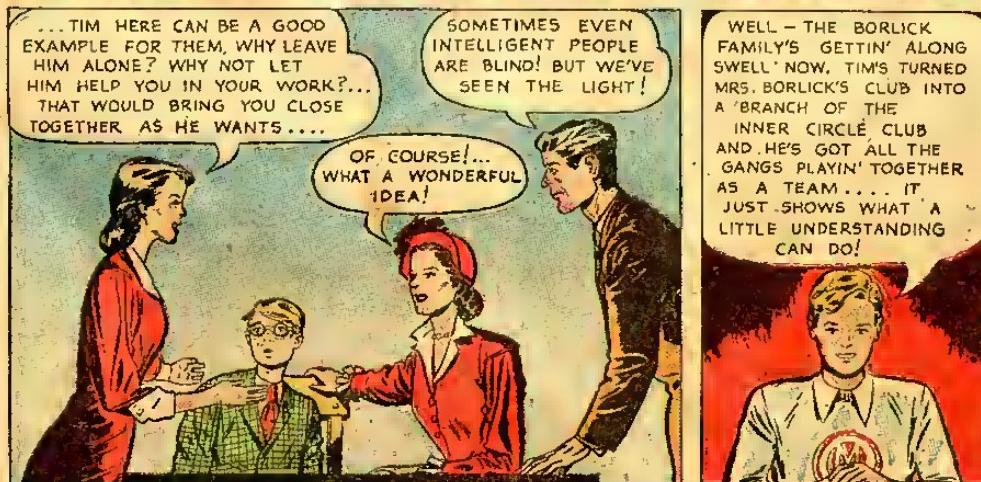




THAT WAS ABOUT IT—
TIM'S MOTHER WAS
TRYING TO HELP
OTHER KIDS WITH-
OUT KNOWING WHAT
MADE HER OWN
SON TICK! SHE
MEANT WELL BUT
HER LACK OF UNDER-
STANDING ALMOST
RUINED TIM BE-
CAUSE HE FELT
LONELY AND
NEGLECTED....



MR. BORLICK KNEW THAT THE GULF SEPARATING
THEM FROM THEIR SON NEEDED PULLING
TOGETHER... SO HE WENT TO MRS. GARSON, A
FAMILY COUNSELOR... A WONDERFUL LADY...



Shadow Comics

CRIME DOES NOT PAY

CHICK CARTER'S INNER CIRCLE THE DEADLY VENUS . . .

"I think," Nick said, "that without successful fear of contradiction I can say that this piece of junk was the most worthless looking thing I have ever seen. Right, Chick?" He asked his foster son for confirmation.

"You're so right, dad." Chick pretended to shudder. "It was the first thing we saw when we went into the auction. You couldn't miss it. It stuck out like the proverbial sore thumb. All around it were really valuable art objects, paintings, statues, rugs . . . but it was the center of attention!

"A chrome plated Venus de Milo! The trashy shining surface gave off a thousand reflections . . . and then, to make it worse it had a clock in the center of its stomach. It was enough to give any artist the heebie jeebies!"

"That it was." Nick said, picking up the thread of the story. "Chick and I had wandered into the auction rooms to get out of a rain. We just sat and looked at the horrible looking Venus. Not too surprisingly, when the auctioneer began to ask for bids on it, the people at the auction laughed. A man offered a half a dollar jestingly.

"The auctioneer pretended to be angry and asked for a minimum bid of ten dollars. He went on about what an ornament the Venus would be for any home. However, the audience refused to be impressed and continued to offer a dollar, or at best a dollar and a half.

"Just when the auctioneer was ready to refuse bids on the Venus unless they started at ten dollars, a man rushed into the auction rooms. He saw that the Venus was under the hammer and called out, 'Fifty dollars!' Another man who up till that point had been the highest bidder with a call of two dollars,

turned, and seeing the new bidder turned white.

"He ran his finger under his collar and called out, 'One hundred dollars!' The auctioneer was delighted by this new turn of events and began to really get to work; he worked the two men one against the other.

"The bids got really crazy. At a thousand dollars the first bidder had to give up. The second bidder, still wet with rain, smiled as he went up to pay for his purchase. He looked at the chromium Venus with gratification. The rest of the people were stunned at this peculiar turn of events.

"The first bidder, face blanched, left the auction gallery muttering under his breath."

"That," Chick interrupted, "was all that there seemed to be to the story. Nick and I talked about it for a while and then forgot all about it. It seemed to be one of those strange things that you run into from time to time that have no explanation; no beginning and no end."

"But the end came soon, and bloodily!" Nick said. "The man who had bid highest on the statue was found murdered . . . and the only thing missing from his home was the chromium statue!"

"If we had not accidentally been witnesses to that bidding in the auction gallery the police might never have been able to find out the motive behind this strange crime. I recognized the dead man the instant I saw him. He had been stabbed to death."

"I told the police about what I knew and it didn't take much checking to find out who the other bidder had been. He was a man named Chella. He was an art collector. He

had one of the finest collection of ancient Roman art of anyone in the world. This made the whole case even more baffling. I could not imagine that anyone with any sense of art, with any eye for beauty at all would want the Venus even as a door stop!"

Chick said, "And yet it seemed sure that murder had been committed for the sake of that shiny horror!"

"We went to Chella's home," Nick said. "We, being, the police, Chick and I. The first thing we saw as we entered his beautifully furnished home was a real Venus. A thing of exquisite beauty . . . the lines were sure proof that the sculptor who had fashioned it had been a great, great artist. It was strange seeing the real thing when all the time our minds were filled by that modern abomination with the clock in its stomach.

"Chella was not very helpful. He pretended not to know what we were talking about."

"You know, Nick," Chick said thoughtfully, "I wonder if we ever would have caught him if you hadn't seen the significance of the storage batteries and the big tank . . ."

"It certainly would have been hard to prove, that's for sure!" Nick agreed.

Beef whispered to Sue Pennington, "Do you see what they're talking about? What have storage batteries and a tank got to do with a chromium Venus?"

"There's one thing . . ." Sue said thoughtfully. "It's a bad rule that doesn't work two ways . . ."

"Ah . . . now you're doing what Nick and Chick do." Beef made a face. "What does that mean?"

Sue put her finger to her lips. "Shh . . . Nick is explaining."

"I don't know whether you know anything about electro-plating," he said to the other members of the Inner Circle, "but if you know anything at all, you know that the process works two ways.

"Anything that you can electro-plate, you can remove the plating just by transposing

the wires. The same process that deposits a layer of metal on any object, will, when the current is reversed remove the layer of metal!"

"Which is, of course," Chick said, "exactly what Chella had done after killing to get the statue."

"He placed the chromium plated statue in an electrolytic bath and reversing the process had the electricity unplate the Venus!"

"He had no trouble in removing the clock from the statue's stomach. It had just been a flat dummy, glued in place." Chick amplified.

Beef couldn't stand it any more. He called out, "Whoa! What are you talking about? All right, I see that the real Venus was hidden under the chromium plate, that the dummy clock was glued in place so as to disguise the fact that the Venus was real. But why?"

"A very simple reason," Nick said. "When the Venus was dug out of the ground in the country in which it was found, it became one of the authentic art treasures of the country. They wanted it on display. Then . . . a thief stole it . . . He was then holding an objet d'art that he couldn't even get out of the country in order to see it. He disguised it, sent it to this country, where it went right through the customs and was sent to the auction gallery."

"It was clever," Chick said. "The chromium and the clock were all that you could see. The fact that under that disguise was a very real treasure was completely hidden!"

"Chella gave up when I explained the significance of the batteries and the chemical tank to the police. He cried as he was taken away. Cried, not because he had committed murder, but because he knew that in prison he would never again be able to see the Venus for which he had killed . . ."

The members of the Inner Circle stirred and got to their feet. The meeting was ended till the next month. They knew that at the next meeting Nick, or his foster son, Chick, would again have some strange story of crime and criminals to regale them with, till then the odd story of the deadly Venus would give them something to think about . . .

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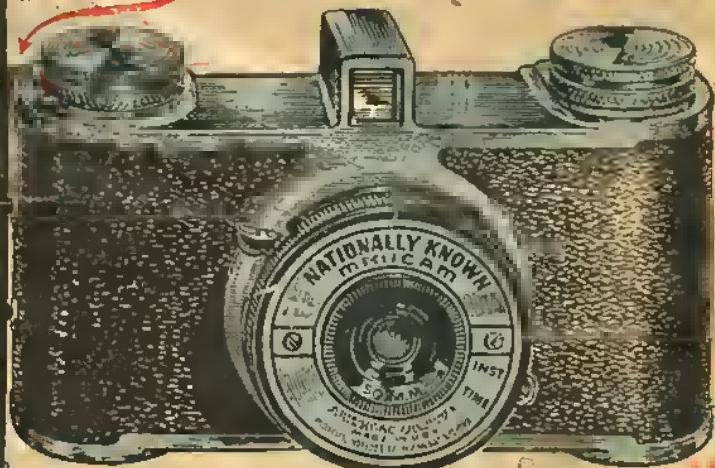
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